

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 10 and claims 11 - 43 and 45 (canceled)

5 44.(currently amended) A countermeasure system for vertically launching a self-propelled countermeasure cartridge trained only in azimuth comprising:

a base for supporting the system;

a launch tube having a central axis, the tube being disposed substantially vertically on the base, the tube having a zero twist longitudinal keyway therein for effecting non-rotational, axial movement relative thereto;

means for rotating the launch tube about its axis for training the countermeasure cartridge in azimuth while disposed on the base;

a countermeasure cartridge receivable within the tube, having propulsion means for launching the cartridge longitudinally out of the tube along its axis;

15 the countermeasure cartridge having a guide key cooperable with the tube longitudinal keyway said guide key and said keyway being disposed for interaction to effect non-rotational axial movement throughout a substantial portion of the launch such that the countermeasure cartridge remains trained in azimuth;

20 the countermeasure cartridge having a canard disposed thereon for adjustment of the pitch of the cartridge during flight after launch from the tube.

45.(canceled)

46. (previously added) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the launch tube is housed in an outer tube affixed to the base

47. (previously amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the tube longitudinal keyway and the countermeasure cartridge guide key provide for rotation-free launch of the countermeasure cartridge with respect to the launch tube.

48. (previously amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 47 wherein the rotation of the launch tube sets the launch azimuth orientation and course of the countermeasure cartridge and the actuation of the canard statically adjusts pitch angle and ballistic trajectory of the countermeasure cartridge.

49. (previously amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 includes a thruster disposed substantially perpendicular to the axis of the countermeasure cartridge for selective adjustment of the course of the cartridge after launch from the launch tube.

50. (previously amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 49 wherein the countermeasure cartridge includes internal control means preprogrammed for activation of the thruster.

51. (previously amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the countermeasure cartridge includes internal control means preprogrammed for activation of the canard.

52. (previously amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the countermeasure cartridge includes an onboard gyroscopic stabilization system to control at least one of roll, pitch and yaw of the countermeasure cartridge after launch.

53. (previously amended) The countermeasures system as claimed in claim 52 wherein the gyroscopic stabilization system is linked to a data base prior to launch of the countermeasure cartridge whereby updated flight and countermeasure information is provided to the system.

54. (previously added) The countermeasure system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the countermeasure cartridge contains a releasable decoy.